



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Bronagh's Primary School
Rostrevor**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST BRONAGH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROSTREVOR, BT34 63BB (503-6673)

The focused inspection of St Bronagh's Primary School in March 2009 highlighted strengths in the school's provision, including: the well-behaved children, the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity and the satisfactory provision in aspects of both English and mathematics. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the Board of Governors (governors), together with the Principal and staff, to ensure collective decision making, team working and greater consistency across key areas of the school's life and work;
- the development of a more effective senior management team to effect the improvements necessary in the standards which the children achieve; and
- improvement in internal and external communication and working relationships throughout the school.

The quality of education was found to be unsatisfactory and, as a result, the school entered the formal intervention process. The Department of Education indicated at the time that a follow-up inspection would take place and that, in the interim, follow-up inspection visits would monitor the progress being made in bringing about the necessary improvements. The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an interim follow-up visit (IFUV) in St Bronagh's Primary School on 30 March 2010 and conducted a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 9 and 10 June 2010.

At the time of the FUI in June 2010, the following were identified as the most important improvements that had taken place since the original inspection:

- the teaching observed was always satisfactory and in most instances it was good;
- the teachers were making good use of performance data to help inform targets for improvement;
- there was a significant improvement in the standards and achievements of the children and the standards of attainment in both literacy and numeracy were good;
- the self evaluation processes put in place were helping the staff to be more reflective about their work, inform their planning for learning and teaching and to share good practice with one another; and
- those teachers who had joined the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were demonstrating a strong commitment to making a positive contribution to the further development of the school.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school had improved by one performance level from unsatisfactory to inadequate. While the school had made good progress in important aspects of its work, in particular the quality of learning and teaching and in the standards the children were achieving, the FUI identified the need for substantial improvement in the Principal's leadership of the school.

The school remained in the formal intervention process; appropriate action plans were submitted in response to the FUI findings and the Inspectorate carried out a further IFUV on 13 April 2011.

In the interval since the FUI in June 2010, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the school has experienced a number of temporary staffing changes; three permanent members of the teaching staff, including the Principal, were not present at the time of the IFUV or the FUI;
- the Vice-principal has taken on the role of Acting-principal;
- the members of the SLT are participating in leadership and management training;
- the Acting-principal and SLT have agreed a detailed one-year plan to guide the school's development during the current academic year; and
- the Acting-Principal, SLT and governors have had extensive support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Service in responding to the FUI findings.

The Inspectorate carried out a second FUI on 14 and 15 June 2011.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection in 2009 and the FUI in June 2010:

- the quality of the teaching observed now ranges from satisfactory to very good, with most of the lessons observed being good or very good;
- most of the children are now achieving good standards in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology;
- the overall quality of the leadership and management of the school is now good; the SLT and co-ordinators understand their respective roles and responsibilities and work together effectively to ensure collective decision-making;
- reflection and self evaluation to promote improvement have become an integral part of the work of the school; there is a shared focus on improving the quality of learning and teaching and on raising the children's levels of attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy;
- the teachers are making good use of performance data and a broad range of supporting qualitative evidence to help identify the children's levels of achievement, to inform support programmes and year group planning and to track the children's individual progress;
- all of the staff report improvement in the quality of communication, in staff morale and welfare and in the climate of the working environment; and
- most of the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the educational and pastoral provision in the school.

The area for improvement is the need:

- to develop further the monitoring and evaluating processes in order to identify the key actions which will bring about the continued improvement in the children's standards and achievements.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of the educational and pastoral provision in the school is now good. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress in the area for improvement.

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